

### Illinois Lawmakers Ponder Long-Term Effects of Capture

Eric Krol - Chicago Daily Herald

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As late as last Thursday morning, Sen. Dick Durbin, who sits on a Senate intelligence panel, said he was "very skeptical" the U.S. soon would capture Saddam Hussein.

But on Sunday morning, the nation awoke to find Iraq's deposed despot had been captured, bearded and bewildered-looking, in a hidden hole next to a hut near his Tikrit hometown.

The rapid turnaround showed how quickly the tide can change in hide-and-seek military missions. Illinois' suburban congressional delegation disagreed along party lines, however, on whether Saddam's capture will turn the tide in the terror war.

"This is a great day for the Iraqi people. It is a great day for the American people. And it is a great day in the war on terror," said Republican U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert of Yorkville.

Congressman Henry J. Hyde, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, was focused on how to best put Saddam on trial for killing so many of his people. Hyde said the first option should be to allow the Iraqis a chance to create a court to try him. And Hyde said Saddam's penalty should be death.

"Assuming there is proof he is accountable for the killings, I would not blanch at the death penalty," said Hyde, a Wood Dale Republican.

Congressman Phil Crane, a Wauconda Republican, called Saddam's capture a "tremendous victory" against terrorism.

But Democratic U.S. **Rep. Jan Schakowsky** of Evanston vehemently disagreed about the capture's significance as she applauded the military effort.

"The capture of Saddam Hussein is not about the war on terror. This is about Iraq and Saddam Hussein, not about Osama bin Laden, or those who attacked or plotted against the United

States," she said. "In my view, this war has been a diversion from the war on terror in terms of troops, money and intelligence assets."

Democrat Durbin was taking a wait-and-see attitude about the capture's effect on Iraqi reconstruction.

"We're hoping the capture will break the back of the resistance (in Iraq), but only time will tell," said Durbin, who was in downstate Carbondale attending the funeral of former Sen. Paul Simon.

As for the troops, Congressman Mark Kirk, a Highland Park Republican, said Saddam's capture boosts morale.

"They have high morale as long as their work is important and they're part of a winning team. This is hard evidence that they are part of that winning team," said Kirk, an officer in the Naval reserves.